

Rethinking Radiometric Dating

—Evidence for a Young Earth from a Nuclear Physicist

by *Vernon R. Cupps*. Dallas TX: Institute for Creation Research, 2019. 138 pages, hardcover, \$24.99

My first reaction when opening the package that the book came in was that I bought a coffee table book. It was big and glossy with a lot of pictures and large print. I was wrong. The author has a PhD in physics and has worked as a nuclear physicist for many years. That qualifies him to write about nuclear decay. He is also committed to a recent 6-day creation.

In short chapters, the book examines several of the methods that secular scientists use to determine the age of rocks and organic material. Each method is described and the assumptions they are based on are listed. All assume a closed system. Neither parent nor daughter isotopes are added to the material from outside sources and none are removed. Cupps feels that this closed system assumption is unrealistic given the amount of time the secular model requires. Another frequent assumption is that the nuclear decay rate is a constant. Cupps cites ICR's RATE study that demonstrated that there are factors including the Genesis Flood which may alter decay rate.

He also shows that ages calculated by different methods can vary significantly. He cites an example of rocks produced by a volcanic eruption in New Zealand about 65 years ago. These rocks were dated as 197 plus or minus 160 million years old (page 86).

Most of the calculations are put in sidebars so those who do not want to follow the mathematical details can skip them. Most calculations can be followed by anyone with an understanding of high school algebra, but some are more advanced. The book is well documented so that it can lead to more detailed follow-up.

The book seems to advance the flawed idea that we can prove evolution false using science alone. With that warning, I still found this book to be a useful apologetic tool.

James A. Sehloff